



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 22, 2009

Board of Supervisors
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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

National Association of Counties Task Force on Health Reform Hearing

On April 16, 2009, Chairman Don Knabe testified before the National Association of Counties (NACo) Task Force on Health Reform at a meeting of NACo's Large Urban County Caucus in Sacramento. He outlined Los Angeles County's role in financing and providing health care, noting that the County has the second largest public health and hospital system in the nation and over 2 million uninsured individuals. He expressed the County's strong support for health reform and urged NACo to continue its advocacy to ensure the passage of Federal health care reform. He testified on the need to protect the fragile safety net of public hospitals and clinics that will continue to serve those who may fall through the cracks.

Chairman Knabe specifically highlighted several issues, including the need to continue Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital and other supplemental payments, which have been the key in maintaining the safety net; and to expand coverage and stabilize funding for the safety net so that the needs of those who remain uncovered are met. Additionally, he stressed the importance of stabilizing public health as well as health care emergency care and trauma systems so that counties can continue to address surge capacity issues such as natural and man-made disasters. He also noted the significance of strengthening the national, state, and local public health infrastructure with a focus on wellness and disease prevention programs.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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The National Association of Counties' President Don Stapley, Supervisor of Maricopa County, Arizona, appointed President-elect Valerie Brown, Supervisor of Sonoma County, California, as Chair of the NACo Health System Reform Working Group in July 2008. The ad hoc committee was formed to study, refine, and focus on NACo's health policy in light of the prominence health reform achieved during the political campaign season and anticipating that major reform legislation was likely to be taken up by the 111th Congress.

The working group has held three regional hearings, including the Sacramento hearing, to receive testimony from officials with expertise in local government health systems about their vision for a reformed health system. The working group, which is made of 19 elected and appointed county officials from across the country, will submit recommendations on behalf of the nation's counties to the Obama Administration and the Congress on national health care reform.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
RT:SJW:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist